



March 1, 2004

Providence man is sentenced for drug trafficking;

Alexis Garcia is a “career offender” whose prior offenses include smuggling large quantities of cocaine from RI to Maine

A federal judge has sentenced **Alexis Garcia**, 39, of Providence, to 15 years in federal prison for heroin trafficking. Garcia’s prior drug-trafficking convictions, which include one for smuggling approximately \$1,000,000 worth of cocaine from Rhode Island to Maine, classified him as a career offender and subjected him to a longer sentence than guidelines would otherwise have called for.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed on February 27 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At a hearing in September during which Garcia pleaded guilty, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker said that, in November 2002, a Providence detective developed information that a man named Alex was dealing drugs out of an apartment at 41 Ontario Street. On November 12, detectives set up surveillance at that address and observed Garcia leave in a red car. Officers stopped the car and found a sandwich bag in Garcia’s pocket in which there were five bags of heroin weighing about 16 grams. Detectives arrested Garcia.

A subsequent search of the apartment at 41 Ontario Street turned up additional heroin, weighing about 10.3 grams, and drug-trafficking materials, including a scale, baggies, a coffee grinder and a mixing bowl in which there were traces of heroin.

In 1987, Garcia was convicted in federal court in Maine for conspiracy with intent to distribute cocaine. In 1996, he was convicted in Providence County Superior Court of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Vilker prosecuted it.

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